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Customer No.: 26263

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Kazuhito Shimoda, et al.

Application No.: 09/688,541

Confirmation No.: 3044

Filed: October 16, 2000

For: METHOD FOR FORMING AN OPTICAL COMPONENT (As Amended)

Group Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: Wesley D. Markham

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Audas
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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner Of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Non-Final Office Action dated March 26, 2002, Paper No. 9, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 7, please replace the first full paragraph with the following new paragraph:

C1
The above preferable method, specifying the transmittance as the optical characteristic, according to the second aspect of the present invention, may further include a removal step of removing a layer portion formed during a period of time from a time point when the increase/decrease of the measured mean light transmittance of the optical component is stopped to a time point when the measured mean light transmittance is changed to be decreased.

Page 8, please replace the first full paragraph with the following new paragraph:

C2
In the method according to the second aspect of the present invention, preferably, the control steps include the step of controlling a thickness of one layer of the plurality of alternately stacked layers, the one layer having a higher refractive index and being positioned near the uppermost surface remotest from the base.